

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 881
By Watson E

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of renowned gospel pianist
Anthony Burger of Cleveland, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Anthony Burger; and

WHEREAS, a native of Cleveland, Tennessee, Anthony Burger was an extraordinary musician, having won international acclaim as a gospel pianist, sharing his faith in his Lord and Savior through his musical gift; and

WHEREAS, as a five-year-old musical prodigy, Mr. Burger was the youngest student to be accepted into the University of Tennessee's Cadek Conservatory of Music; at the age of six he would make his public radio appearance for a March of Dimes fundraiser, and at the age of 17, he was nominated as one of the top five pianists for Gospel Music's Favorite Musician Award; and

WHEREAS, as a teenager, Anthony Burger toured with the Gospelairens, a Cleveland-area gospel quartet, while he was still a student at Bradley Central High School; in 1979, he successfully auditioned to join the celebrated Kingsmen Quartet; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burger shared his musical talents with millions over the years, touring with the Kingsmen Quartet, performing with the Gaither Vocal Band as a guest artist and appearing on the Billy Graham Crusade in 1994; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades during his lifetime, Mr. Burger was named Musician of the Year for 10 straight years by the National Quartet Convention's *Singing News* magazine, which later re-named the award the Anthony Burger Award; and

WHEREAS, a former Dove award winner, Anthony Burger received a 2006 Dove award nomination for Instrumental Album of the Year for his most recent album, "A Tribute to Bill and Gloria Gaither"; and

WHEREAS, Anthony Burger was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Anthony Burger enjoyed the loving companionship of his beloved wife LuAnn, and was the proud father of Lori, A.J. and Austin; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burger is also survived by his parents, Richard and Gene Burger, and two brothers, Randy and Clinton Burger; and

WHEREAS, Anthony Burger leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional musician and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Anthony Burger, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Burger.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.